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NEWSMAN

MONTHLY JOURNAL OF THE MADRAS REPORTERS' GUILD

IN THIS ISSUE

Wanted : Military Correspondents

Move to Curb Right of Press

Newspapers in Japan

TV Rules Cuba

and other interesting features

rch-April 1960

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NEWSMAN

MONTHLY JOURNAL OF THE MADRAS REPORTER'S GUILD

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WANTED: MILITARY CORRESPONDENTS

In the days of British rule, Indians (except in the Punjab) took little interest in the army, except to demand less expenditure on it in the annual Budget. At that time one-third of the army were British troops who served in India on rotation. The remainder were from the "martial races"—drawn from the sections of the country which were regarded as loyal during the Mutiny of 1857. During the first world war the army strength which was about 200,000 rose to nearly a million and large contingents of Indian troops were sent abroad to fight in the Middle East and France. Indian nationalists felt that as a result of our co-operation and help in the war, we should get a large measure of freedom and it was their disappointment with the meagreness of the Montague-Chelmsford reforms that led to demonstrations, the Rowlatt Act, the firing at Amritsar and the mass disobedience movement of 1921.

In the second world war, though nationalist opinion was opposed to co-operation, even a bigger army was raised and it fought with great distinction in Ethiopia, Egypt, Italy, Imphal, Burma etc. This time the recruits came from all regions and classes of India with the result that Indians everywhere for the first time had links with the Defence Services. Then came independence and the division of the army and air force provided its valour in the Kashmir war and pride in the armed forces developed. We now had to build up a navy as well as an air force of our own, instead of depending on the British Navy as in the past. Though the size of our forces remained small, the cost increased because modern arms are very expensive. The defence service estimates were four times that they normally would be and now they have reached staggering figure of Rs. 300 crores. Yet the money has been cheerfully voted because people realise that we must defend our country ourselves.

Even so until the last year or two, the Defence debate in Parliament was a dull and routine affair because very few members of Parliament knew anything about the subject and the press had very few military correspondents.

While there is much angry talk about the Chinese incursions and abuse of the Government for not firmly holding the frontiers, there is precious little information about the exact nature of the military problem raised by the Chinese. This is only one instance of how the people are being kept ignorant of such life-and-death questions that should be ventilated in a democracy and studied by both the Press and the politicians.

Nor does the Government do much in the way of enlightenment. The old tradition of giving the minimum of information about Defence has been kept up and nobody discussed, for example, the size of the army or its equipment or the kind of planes or tanks purchased or entered into a debate on the ways in which the money was to be utilised

Nevertheless, there has been a change. It occurred two or three years ago when the Americans supplied jet fighter planes to Pakistan and we had hastily to order Hawker Hunters and Canberra in order to maintain equality of strength with Pakistan. Then came the Chinese incursions in Ladakh and NEFA. People became nervous about the limited strength of our army which is numbered in lakhs whereas the Chinese army is numbered in millions. Our Air Force is tiny compared to theirs The border areas which were threatened were patrolled only by our armed police. In these mountainous areas motorised transport and tanks could be of no use while there were few airfields which could be used by our planes. There were not even approach roads to most of the points on the border. So when it was announced that the army would take over these areas from the border police, roads had to the built, and airfields and depots constructed. We had to purchase helicopters and use civil planes for airdropping of food to keep these posts supplied. Unfortunately while there is much angry talk about the Chinese and abuse of the Government for not holding the frontiers

firmly, there is still little information about what is actually going on and the exact nature of the military problem the Chinese have raised.

We badly need "military correspondents" who will study these matters and give the public an idea of the progress that is being made, without revealing any military secrets. The Government should realise that this would be the best way to check the "alarm and despondeney" which is inevitable when the public is kept ignorant of the relevant information.

The Government should also realise the importance of informing the public about the modernisation of the defence forces and the manufacture of arms in this country. Merely a report that the value of materials produced has gone up by so many crores of rupees is not enough. What is being made and what remains to be made? Defence forces elsewhere are now making missiles (both atomic and non-atomic) for the use of the army, the navy and the air force. We have renounced atomic weapons but what about non-atomic missiles which can be used for example to defend cities from attacking planes? They are no doubt enormously costly but sohuld we make a start with them or not? These are life-and-death questions that should be ventilaled in a democracy and both the press and the politicians should make a study of them.

— "*CRITIC*"

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

A finicky visitor

Sir,

I was delighted to read the article "In Sad Memory," in your current issue. What Mr. Pothan Joseph told me on the topic is worth recalling. After seeing his own "obituary" in the morning, an enraged reader rushed to the newspaper office and presenting himself before the editor, said: "Sir, your paper has committed a grave error. While I am alive, it carries my obituary!" The editor who was thoroughly perplexed, said, "Sir, we are very sorry. We will publish a correction." But, to his astonishment, the visitor handed in a type-script of three pages and said: "In future, if I die, do not dismiss me cheaply like this with a few lines. Here is an account of my achievements." And then, he quietly walked away.

N. R. Bhuvarahan

Enforcing right conduct

BRITISH PRESS COUNCIL'S ACTIVITIES

In his foreword to the sixth annual report of the General Council of the Press in Britain (recently published), Sir Linton Andrews has expressed himself against the suggestion that the Council should intervene in the labour disputes "which from time to time affect the Press and indirectly the freedom of journalists".

Sir Linton Andrews said: "Though I, for one, would like to see a still more powerful and broader-based Press Council it must be borne in mind that the Council properly concerns itself with the ethical side of the professin and not with its economics".

Sir Linton Andrews was the Chairman of the Council during the period July 1958–June 1959 covered by the Report and has since retired. He said: 'The Council has continued in the year under review to win more attention. "This case ought to be reported to the Press Council' is becoming a commonplace in many encounters especially in local Government. The threat may be more often hinted at than fulfilled, but the existence of this authority, charged with the defence of Press freedom and the exposure of abuses of that freedom, is now widely acknowledged and has both an encouraging and a deterrent effect."

On the question whether the Council had justified its existence, Sir Linton Andrews said that it had touched the nation's life from Buckingham Palace to some of the humblest homes. It was a needed champion of fair play for all. It had redressed many grievances with no embittering publicity. Where it had thought it should declare itself vigorously it had not hestitated to do so. By its decisions it was building up a code of ethics.

The annual report gave a number of cases referred to the Council during the year and the decisions of the Council on them. The followin two may be of some interest to Reporters in particular:

(a) The Association of Headmasters in Senior Secondary Schools in Scotland protested against the action of the Scottish Daily Mail in sending a reporter to the home of the captain of the Royal High school, Edinburgh to confirm a report that a pupil at the school had been expelled. In a statement to the Council, the Editor of the Scottish Daily Mail agreed that a headmaster was the person from whom to seek confirmation or denial of such a report, but it was felt thet preliminary inquiries were desirable and there was no question of asking the captain of the school to make a statement for publication. He could not accept the view that free newspapers were to be told to whom they might or might not refer in the course of their legitimate inquires.

The Press Council declared that while appreciating the right and duty of a newspaper to make inquiries to check the accuracy of reports, the first person to consult in this particular instance was clearly the Headmaster.

A distressing instance

(b) The Council was asked by the Wolverhampton branch of the N. U. J. to investigat the action of the *Sunday Mercury* Birmingham in revealing the name of a married woman which had been mentioned during the inquest on a young man with whom she had been on intimate terms and who committed suicide after she had broken off the association. The Coroner expressed the hope that the newspapers would not disclose her name and it was not suggested that the *Sundy Mercury* was aware of the request when it published its article some days latter. The woman was greatly distressed by the publication and also committed suicide.

After prolonged consideration, the Council came to the conclusion that the *Sunday Mercury* was gravely at fault in seeking to identify the woman concerned when no other newspaper, following a request made by the Coroner, had divulged her name. It also stated that the *Sunday Mercury* was at fault instructing a reporter to seek her out at her new address. The decision to publish the story was a grave violation of journalistic standards and deserved the strongest censure, the Council added.

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PRESS SHOULD BE ADMITTED TO LOCAL BODY MEETINGS

[Do Local bodies, like pocket Hitlers, gag the press? Or, do they suffer at the hands of the Press from oversensationalism? These and other controversial questions were debated when the British House of Commons considered a private member's Bill for greater facilities to Press to cover local body meetings. Meant to be a minimum legislative code of practice, the measure seeks to balance public right to knowledge and local bodies' need for private conference.

Divergent views on the question of granting to the press the right to attend and report the meetings of local authorities were expressed when the House of Commons debated on February 5 a private member's bill providing for admission of press to meetings of local authorities.

Though there was plenty of disagreement in the views they were by no means on party lines and in the end the Bill, which got the support of the Local Government Minister, was given a second reading.

The Bill was moved by Mrs. Margaret Thatcher (conservative) Mr. Henry Brooke, Local Government Minister, felt that the Bill was a sincere endeavour to remedy a situation which was not satisfactory at present. He indicated that he would pursue the idea of having a code of conduct as he believed that what was needed was not only a statutory minimum but positive encouragement for all councils to raise the standard of their relations with the press and public to the highest pitch.

Exclusion of press from the meetings of local authorities became an issue last year in Nottingham. The Local Authorities (Admission of the Press to Meetings) Act of 1908 provided in unequivocal terms that the press had a right to attend the meetings of every local authority. But it was felt to have two defects. First, it did not apply to any local authority meeting which resolved itself into committee. Under the Bill now proposed, except in specified cases, all committees will equally be open to the press.

The other apparent weakness of the existing Act was the way in which the proviso to free access to public meetings for the press was drawn. It stated that a local authority could by a majority, temporarily exclude the press representatives as often as may be desirable at any meeting when "in view of the special nature of the business then being dealt with such exclusion is advisable in the public interest." The present Bill is more specific in decreeing when the local authority may exercise its power of conducting the meetings behind closed doors.

Under the Bill, exclusion could be made whenever "publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business" being transacted. The test here is whether publicity would damage the interests of the public and not merely whether it would be better that the public did not know of the proceedings.

The Bill contains a schedule of the public bodies which are bound to open their doors to the press whenever they hold a meeting. This list is conderably wider than those in the 1908 Act. It includes the watch committees and standing joint committees of the quarter sessions of a country, both of whom are concerned with welfare side of the local police force and appointments of chief constables. Regional hospital boards and probation committees, who are responsible for appointments at hospitals and in the probation service respectively, are named. Not only the education committees of local authorities but also divisional executives with delegated functions are included.

Public Right to Knowledge

Moving the Bill, Mrs. Margaret Thatcher said that the public had no right of admission to the meetings of local authorities and were therefore compelled to rely upon the local press for their information as to what their elected representatives were doing. The right of the public to know these extended in a number of ways. For example she said in England and Wales local authorities spent £ 1,400 millions a year and in Scotland more than £ 200 millions. The first point in admitting the press was to know how these moneys were being spent.

She said publicity was the greatest and most effective check against any arbitrary action. It also stimulated the interest of local government, and this was an important point too. She however admitted that while there was a case for publicity there was also a case for a certain amount of private conference when matters relating to personal circumstances were being discussed and matters which were in the preliminary stages. It was in trying to find a point of balance between these two aspects—namely, the public right to knowledge and the necessity for private conferences that the difficulty arose. Her Bill which set out occasions when the press would be entitled to be present, was meant to be a minimum legislative code of practice.

The real justification for excluding the press, she felt, should be that publicity of the matter to be discussed would be prejudicial to the public interest. This would need to be stated in the resolution excluding the press.

(Contd. on page 13)

National Vs Local Press Tussle

[The rivalry between the national and the local Press in Japan referred to in this article should be of much interest to our readers. In India the local Press—small town as well as countryside papers - is still in an initial stage, and has a long, long way to go before it can be said to attain the standard of some of the advanced countries of the world]

The Japanese press has developed a high standard of technical and mechanical excellence, a distribution system second to none which ensures that every urban subscriber gets his paper delivered by 7 a. m. and a combined national circulation which statistically speaking, represents one daily newspaper for every 1.26 house-holds in the country.

Dominated by Tokyo's so-called "Big Three"—the nationally distributed *Asahi Shimbun, Mainichi Shimbun* and *Yomiuri Shimbun*—the combined circulation of the nation's daily newspapers at latest report totalled around 24,600,000 copies, out of which the "Big Three" account for 40 per cent of the total circulation. If two other newspapers — *Sankei Shimbum* and *Nihon Keizei* (the *Financial Times* of Japan) are added, the ratio of total circulation of the nationally-distributed dailies is over 50 per cent of all newspapers sold.

Local Papers

Next in importance in the structure of the Japanese press are the regional newspapers, of which the most prominent are the group formed by *Chubu Nippon Shimbun* (in central Honshu), *Hokkaido Shimbun* and *Nishi Nippon Shimbun* (in Kyushu) to counter a developing campaign by the national dailies to extend their influence in those areas. In addition, each Prefecture has its own local newspaper, some of which are important and attract intense local loyalties. Below these and in general catering for purely local interests are town and village newssheets with circulations as small as from 150 to 3,000 copies daily.

Two outstanding characteristics of this highly-developed press structure which has made Japan a nation of newspaper readers are the advanced droduction techniques developed in recent years and an independence, born of prewar and wartime press control, which takes the form of being anti-Governtment on a large array of issues.

Obscure Policies

"In Europe and America, the newspapers state their politics and the reader makes suitable allowances" stated Mr. E. Seidensticker, lecturer at Sophia University in Tokyo and a student of the Japanese press, in the *Japan Times* recently. "In Japan, on the other hand. newspapers hide their politics behind a show of independence, and the reader, unless he is very careful, can be badly led astray... It is less in the editorial polices of the newspapers than in the editing–the deciding what is and is not to go in the paper, and in the selection of writers that the political biases of the newspapers are most apparent."

In a new development still in its early stages, the national dailies have joined battle with the regional and provincial newspapers in an effort to expand their influence in outlying districts of Japan, and particularly in Hokkaido, central Honshu and Kyushu. The most recent reaction to this challenge has been the creation of a close community of interest between the "little Three"—the *Chubu Nippon Shimbun, Hokkaido Shimbun*, and *Nishi Nippon Shimbun*—to consider and co-ordinate measures to beat off the attack of the big Tokyo dailies in their respective territories.

Challenge of Giants

The initial challenge of the Tokyo press giants in the Nagoya area dates back to prewar days when there existed two weak local papers in Nagoya. During the Pacific war, these two papers were forced by the authorities to merge and became the *Chubu Nippon Shimbun*, while the Tokyo dailies were forbidden to publish in the area—circumstances which the present editors of *Chubu Nippon Shimbun* consider fortunate in the light of the intensified postwar competition. Virtually the same situation existed in Hokkaido and Kyushu.

The present position is that *Chubu Nippon Shimbun* still holds some 85 per cent of the total circulation within the Nagoya area and has a circulation in central Japan of around one million, compared with 200,000 circulation for the *Asahi Shimbun* and *Mainichi Shimbun* combined. In the Nagoya area alone, *Chubu Nippon Shimbun* claims to sell 220,000 copies daily compared with 50,000 copies for *Azahi Shimbun* and *Mainichi Shimbun* combined.

"Big Three" on Warpath

In the Hokkaido area, a sensitive region, the challenge of the Tokyo metropolitan dailies only recently developed, and to date the influence of their competition has not fully developed—the *Hokkaido Shimbun* reportedly has a circulation of 600,000 copies and that of the "Big Three" together is said to be around 100,000 copies. But according to local press sources, the Tokyo national newspapers are bent upon extending their influence in that area at any cost.

In Kyushu the advance of the "Big Three" has been more successful and local newspapers are considering policies and measures to meet and defeat the challenge.

Such are the reports from the main regions concerned. One gets the impression that the rivalry is still in its early stages and that to date the regional newspapers have substantially held their own But the situation

(Contd. on page 16)

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Move to Curb Right of Press to Seek News

By K. Balaraman

*[In the following article, Mr. K. Balaraman, New York Correspondent of "**The Hindu**" gives an account of the proceedings in the U.N. General Assembly's Third Committee, at its recently concluded 14th session when it began adopting a draft convention on Freedom of Information. Its labours have been, to say the least very tardy seeing that the subject has been under consideration since 1951, when a draft convention was first drawn up. The author points out that the important change adopted in the session that is, to substitute the expression, "to gather" for "to seek"—is one which would ultimately limit the activities of the press, and especially of foreign correspondents]*

The UN General Assembly's Third (Social, Humanitarian and Cultural) Committee at its fourteenth session just concluded started adopting a draft Convention on Freedom of Information but from the way it has so far gone about its task it looks as though what it is going to bring forth may prove to be not an instrument for preserving press freedom and unhampered flow of news but one for limiting them.

The Committee has before it for a working paper a draft convention drawn up in 1951 by an ad hoc group constituted by the assembly for that purpose and during the last session it had time only to complete the Preamble and Article 1 (out of 19 Articles). But already it has written into the draft Convention limitations which should make champions of press freedom pause.

According to the ad hoc group's draft, the Preamble would have underwritten the concept that "free exchange of information and opinions" is a "fundamental right and essential in the cause of democracy and peace." The Third Committee has narrowed this down by qualifying "information" by the addition of the words, "accurate, objective and comprehensive" before it. Again, according to the original draft, under Article 1 journalists were to have been guaranteed the "freedom to seek, receive and impart" information without any governmental interference but the Committee has chosen to substitute "gather" for "seek" in this Article.

A Fundamental Change

On the surface these changes look harmless enough. The change in the Preamble would seem only to emphasize the universally acknowledged responsibility of a journalist to disseminate accurate, comprehensive and objective information. But the rub comes when one looks deeper. Who is to judge what is "accurate, objective and comprehensive ?" The draft Covenant does not answer and the presumption is—and this is fully waranted by everything which those who wanted these words inserted in the Convention said during the discussion—that it is the Governments concerned that would decide it. Representatives of democratically advanced countries and the Western press legitimately fear this would open the door to censorship and governmental control of information.

The change made by the Committee in Article 1 is equally disturbing. The sponsors of the change have tried to make out that it is only a harmless change in terminology and "gathering information" is the appropriate term, used by journalis themselves. But from the discussion which went on in the Committee it was clear there was more in it than met the eye at the first glance. Western delegates saw the difference between "seek" and "gather" but their efforts to prevent the change being made failed by the narrowest of margins. Said the *New York Times* in an editorial deploring the Committee's action. "To 'seek' implies to search out, to probe, to explore, to move actively, to obtain information. To 'gather' implies to collect, to cull, to let information, if any, to fall into one's lap. It's the difference between reporting and receiving handouts. It is the difference between the spirit of free enquiry and free press and the spirit of censorship and official controls."

Though the Convention is to be applicable equally to domestic and foreign correspondents it is obvious the protagonists of limitations on freedom of information are aiming to curb the activities of foreign correspondents mainly.

To "Curb" Foreign Correspondents

During the 10 years the United Nations has been dabbling in this subject of freedom of information, the under-developed countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America have been striving to get some limitations on this freedom accepted by the United Nations. They feel that in the past they have been the victims of unfair and unsympathetic reportng by foreign correspondents from Western countries with highly developed media of information and propaganda and they are now anxious to protect themselves against such treatment in future. However recently they were not successful in their efforts to get the UN to accept some provisions for regulating the activities of foreign correspondents because of the opposition, on the one hand, of the Western powers to any kind of muzzling of the press and, on the other, of the Soviet Union to any international convention subscribing to freedom of information. The Soviet Union has however lately changed its position and now favors a convention which would help to limit the activities of foreign correspondents and also make legal provision, at least indirectly, for censorship if necessary. This switch in the Russian Position

(Contd. on page 12)

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Deutche Presse-Agentur

[Like most things in modern Germany, its news service, the well known "dpa" is a Post-war growth. Over 800 full-time employees and 1,100 freelance men and 40 correspondents in 32 countries of the world collect and pass on information to the news hungry German people]

Embracing the entire world, the well-known German news agency, "dpa" *(Deutsche Prese-Agentur)* has a net-work of correspondents at many important centres of the globe. In addition, it has a "tie-up" with other international and national news agencies. This enables it to obtain important news from all over the world.

Since December 1958, the "dpa" has been maintaining in New Delhi an office which serves the larger part of South Asia and has an arrangement with the Press Trust of India, India's news service, for distributing here news about Germany and other countries of Europe. The "dpa" has a teleprinter service from Bombay to its head office in Hamburg where the news stories are handled by a corps of trained journalists, some of them with special knowledge and experience of specific areas, and then served to subscribers. The news stories are thus made available to hundreds of newspapers and to various radio stations which serve hundreds of thousands of listeners.

8,000 words a month

The people of Germany are showing keen interest in the happenings in India and in her economic development, particularly in the industrial activities within the framework of the Five Year Plans. They have great regard for Prime Minister Nehru and his policies and for his attitude to international events and problems. The "dpa" has roused their interest and is serving them with dispatches which amount to nearly 8,000 words a month at present.

The *German News Weekly*, in one of its issues sometime back described the story of the reconstruction of the German Press since the end of the last war. This story will be incomplete without an account of the development and working of the "dpa".

Three agencies merge

This agency in the Federal Republic has had a remarkable development. In 1945, there were four news centres set up and run by the Military Governments in the four zones occupied by the American, British, French and Soviet troops. Less than two years later, the centres were transferred to German hands and again, later—that is, in 1949—three news agencies operating in West Germany were amalgamated to form one single agency called *Deutsche Presse-Agentur*.

The agency was founded by the German newspaper pulishers as a limited liability company. Only publishers and radio stations held the share capital, the latter up to 10 per cent of the total. No single shareholder may hold more than one per cent of the shares. It is, therefore, quite impossible for any individual shareholder to gain control of the agency. Its greatest pride lies in its independence, its economic and journalistic freedom, which it is determined to preserve under all circumstances.

The German newspaper publishers recognized at an early date the importance of the task of collecting and disseminating news in other lands, without any motive of self-interest. At considerable sacrifice on their part they undertook this task in order that the outside world might learn of Germany's advance in cultural, economic and other spheres of activity and of the progress of the new democratic State.

In this work, which is being carrie out with its own resources and means, "dpa" has spun and strengthened many ties which connect Germany with the world.

In the spirit of international co-operation "dpa" was welcomed by the news agencies of other countries and accepted as a working partner in the exchange of news which started up again very shortly after the war.

In the headquarters of "dpa" in Hamburg, there has been built up, in addition to the news centre, a feature service and and a picture service. A comperehensive photographic library and large, specilized teams of feature writers and photographers have made it possible for the agency to be of great assistance to German newspapers and broadcosting stations in these two spheres of activity.

The *Deutsche Presse-Agentur* employs nearly 800 people on a full-time basis. Over 1,100 free-lance journalists collect news which is channelled into seven regional offices and the office in Bonn. From there it is transmitted to the head office which distributes it either by wireless or by teleprinter to all subscribers to the service. The agency maintains 40 correspondents in 32 countries and is, therefore, in a position to report on events and developments all over the world.

In the "dpa" service, the German Press, which was completely rebuilt after 1945, has created an indispensable means of informing itself and its public. The German Press has at all times recognized the objective work, the alertness in maintaining independence, and the quality of "dpa's" performance which, in turn, was able to foster the quick development of a high-quality Press. The German newspapers and radio stations, as well as the foreign news agencies which work together with "dpa", have their own demands upon the agency. It is, therefore obliged to improve its efficiency and to engage itself in an ever-increasing amount of news reporting on both German and foreign affairs.

AN EDITOR TAKES STOCK

[What does it feel to be like an Editor, the man who has the first say on things public, sometimes well in advance of the politician himself? In this article, the author gives an insight in to some of the difficulties that confront the valiant "pen-pusher", and the conscientious way in which he deals with them]

By K. P. NARAYANAN

Abraham Cowley has neatly put it in one of his delightful essays that it grates one's own heart to say anything of disparagement and the listener's ear to hear anything of praise for him. In this short talk presenting the self-poratrait of an editor, I shall strive to steer clear of all this grating. And that for a good reason. "To bless all humanity and to injure none," is the inspiring motto of a famous journal. And I remember it well.

This motto and the effort, so far as it lies in him to live upto it, gives the subject of this sketch a certain measure of happiness. It falls to few men in this world to be in a position directly to advance the cause of their follow men. Such a challenge does fall to an Editor, who, I may tell you, fulfils himself in the measure he meets it.

In History's Cause

And this Editor is fortified in his belief which he has held for long that no man should enter this profession for the allurement of fifthly lucre, but rather out of a sense of dedication, that he is working in history's cause and towards the goal of elevating man. Let me compare this profession with that of the clergy and medicine. The clergy man ministers to men's souls, the doctor ministers to men's bodily needs. The Editor, however, plays a more urgent and vital role; he deals with the most precious part of man, that is, his mind. And, therefore, he owes it to civilisation to serve with what a distinguished Editor once called, shining honesty, willing fervour and complete dedication of purpose. My listeners may feel that all this is just like the cobbler screaming—nothing like leather! May be. But there it is.

Into this profession of Editor, I am free to tell you, I found myself catapulted quite accidentally. The family astrologer who predicted that this man would bloom into a pen-pusher perhaps need not be taken seriouly. But I will not like to keep away from you one fact: while at college I used to view with awe and wonderment the performance of editors who write day after day, on all topics under the sun, from foreign exchange and family planning to Japanese method of paddy cultivation and the ginger groups of political parties.

And I used to cast longing looks at the editorial chair. Into that chair, as I said earlier, I was later happily catapulted.

How do you feel in that chair, a friend once asked me. It is but fair to add here that this friend never disguises his admiration for the tremendously important work that I am supposed to be doing and ever reinforces it by reminding me of Napolean's famous maxim, that four hostile newspapers are to be more feared than a thousand bayonets. Well, how do I feel? Before going into that, let me tell you how an elderly visitor was sadly disappointed at the way I looked. My portrait of an Editor, he said, is a bearded, bespectacled, grave, grey-haired being whose path none dared to cross. Well, I do have a few grey hairs which I can sport as a sign of maturity, but no beard, no glasses and am never grave-looking. Yes; but how do I feel? Every morning I feel like a father who nervously ushers his daughter into his drawing room for approval by the assembled bridegroom's party. Every day I get the girl ready, embellish her, bedeck her and add to her beauty by artful aids and present her before the boy's party. The boy's party, which, in my case, is the growing army of readers, always has the upper hand. The customer is always right, that is a basic proposition on which every business supports and sustains itself. Ears are pricked to catch the slightest whisphers of disapproval from the boy's sister-in-law's distant cousin's dangerous auntie. Eyes are strained to get a glimpse of the unfavourable reaction registered on the face of the elderly gentleman in the party sitting like grandsire cut in alabaster. Reactions like these and others that come to us of their own accord and are gathered enable the Editor to conduct what we, borrowing a phrase from medical parlance, call the daily post mortem. The daily paper, which is a modern miracle, is dissected and analysed, errors and omissions traced to their sources and responsibility for faults and follies fixed.

Newspapers which the editors produce are human institutions and they are as fallible as other human beings. Even a six-page paper prints about forty thousand words per day and it would be a minor marvel if mistakes do not smuggle themselves in. Mistakes do occur as accidents do occur in the best regulated families. There is however, one difference. The mistakes committed by the practitioners of other professions lie buried in their files, ledgers and prescription slips. In the Editor's case the mistakes are in cold print and are held up before public gaze every morning. Not all my words nor all my tears could wash a word of it.

I can tell you many instances. One, however, must suffice. Some big gun

(Contd. on page 11)

TV RULES CUBA!

Castro's Marathon Broadcasts

By JEAN ZIEGLER

[That radio, especially TV can be a powerful live force in moulding public opinion is brought home vividly in the following article. In far off Cuba, dynamic, bearded Fidel Castro keeps the revolution going, gets an unwanted President to resign or proclaims far-reaching land reforms in marathon all-night TV broadcasts, lasting as much as six hours at a time]

I have seen the Bouglione Circus, Cinerama atrocities by Cecil B. de Mille, Arab festivals and Broadway parades, but never have I witnessed a show to hold a candle to Fidel Castro's television marathon.

The stage setting is always the same: towards 8 p. m. (there are two performances weekly on an average) truck-loads of bearded rebels pull up outside the CMQ Studio in Havana. Machine guns are installed on the surrounding roofs and as a general rule the only people allowed to enter the building are handpicked.

But the Cubans, even when bearded and machine-gunned, are nice, helpful people; and a journalist—especially if he is not a North American—easily manages to get past with a friendly smile and make his own way to the cramped broadcasting studio (50 seats) on the second floor. There he is hit by a wave of steamy heat, for the room is as over-crowded as a lifeboat and everywhere ministers and reporters, olive-green soliders and diplomats, are embracing with Caribbean effusiveness, discussing laws or celebrating reunions.

Then, after a few false alarms, towards ten o'clock the Maximum Leader of the Revolutions appears. He is briefly visible behind a wall of enthusiastic supporters, his military shirt open, a black cigar in the corner of his mouth.

Behind me Dr. Dorticos, President of the Republic of Cuba, jumps up, tells his wife to keep his seat for him and makes a dash for Castro with a handful of documents. The latter reads them, asks a question or two, signs—and passes on to the next customer. He can be seen from time to time bobbing above the surging crowd like the float on a fishing line. He takes all of thirty-five minutes to cover the twenty yards separating the door way from the cameras.

Quiz

At length Cuba's First Man is seated in front of the three cameras. The broadcast is staged as a quiz. Three men, mostly piloted by Waguemert, the very capable editor of the intellectual periodical *Carteles*, put questions to which Fidel Castro replies. At least, that is the procedure during the first quarter of an hour—for once Fidel gets warmed up the devil himself couldn't stop him. At first he speaks softly, with the amiable persuasiveness of an elderly headmaster. His pleasant, dark eyes are fixed on the lens and his gesture are sweepingly graceful.

The Storm Breaks

But suddenly the storm breaks—the first drops appear on his neck, the green shirt blackens with sweat, his powerful torso begins to sway above the table—all at once the studio is electrified...and for the next six hours I sit glued to my seat, fascinated, rooted to the spot like a mouse in front of a snake. And in all Cuba (46,000 sq. miles) exactly the same thing is happening to over four million people.

The Castro Show is broadcast live by all stations, both TV and radio. Moreover, the Revolution government has had television sets installed in nearly all police stations and army posts, and on innumerable public squares and in government buildings. On the day of the broadcast the streets of Santiago and Trinidad, of Havana and Santa Clara, are deserted after nine o'clock in the evening. And in the remote villages thousands of "guaijios" mount their horses and ride perhaps for hours to the nearest military post with its small television screen.

What is the strange power behind Castro's oratory? One straight-forward answer is that he believes his own words. And he believes with the tremendous passion responsible for so many outbreaks which viewd from a distance, look like excesses. The man is one of the *condottieri* type He has an extraordinary physical and nervous constitution and an abundance of ideas bordering on the phenomenal, combined with the persuasive power of a Demosthenes.

Torrent of Rhetoric

Castro is definitely no politician. His outstanding qualities as a leader—authority, intransigence, unbounded pride—may ensure him even today the effusive support of by far the great majority of the Cuban people, yet they blind him to the subtleties of a situation to the advantages of the occasional compromise. His present attacks on the United States—completely senseless politically though to a great extent materially justified are typical specimens of the torrent of rhetoric which, once the flood-gates are opened, break through unchecked by reason, with only passionate impulse as their driving-force.

The emanation of Castro's personaiity is such that he can afford to deride all the laws of rhetoric. He often repeats the same idea four ot five times in the selfsame words, interrupts himself suddenly for no reason whatever except to take a sip from a small cup of coffee, gesticulates like a maniac—and goes on talking till daybreak.

An Original form of Govt.

What is government by television? A cheap newspaper gimmick? No, for with his non-stop TV shows Fidel

Castro has actually created a new form of government that is just as original and will perhaps prove no less significant in its historic effects than the Greek invention of government by ballot, better known under the name of Democracy. —For six million Cubans the sole expression of their government's will is the telivision speech twice weekly by its chief.

Never at Home!

Fidel Castro has no office. The stupendous simplicity and warm cordiality he affects towards all who encounter him—ordinary, everyday people, foreign journalists, his ministerial colleagues, the waiter in the Hilton Hotel kitchen—also has a reverse side: Fidel Castro is never, positively never, to be found! Is he in his house at Miramar, is he working in the Hilton Hotel, is he eating in the kitchen of some restaurant, is he commanding troops at Camaguey or conducting a trial at Pinar del Rio? The best tip one can get in Havana is: "Wait outside the television studio, he's bound to turn up soon!

Worthwhile Innovation

Has Castro's invention proved its worth? Judging by thirteen month's experience, it has. In a single TV night he made such short work of the widely popular President Urritia, who could not be accused of any concrete offense, that by midnight the man had handed in his resignation at the television studio. In one night, too, Fidel Castro proclaimed the agrarian reform to his nation—the most profound and thorough revolution, political and social, that any Latin American country had undergone for 400 years.And by the time he left the studio that morning the entire people had enthusiastically accepted the agrarian reform!

There are plenty of other instances. Just one more: recently the Maximum Leader put the Spanish Ambassador to flight on television by expressing *urbi et orbi* hi personal scorn of the representative of"Franco tyranny!" Opinion may be divided on this method of government, but one thing must be admitted: Thanks to television Fidel Castro has succeeded in preserving the dynamic force of his revolution to the present day, a good thirteen months after.

What is the balance of the Cuban Revolution at the beginning of 1960? In a country threatened by a latent economic crisis, with an external enemy (Dominican Republic) and an internal foe (25,000 unemployed Battista soldiers) to combat, and furthermore undertaking a complete revision of its domestic and foreign policy, it is extermely difficult to draw the outline of national revival. The Revolution has two fundamental targets (already set by Fidel Castro in the Sierra Maestra in 1958), viz. the overthrow of the appallingly bloody dictatorship of Sergeant Battista, and afterwards the establishment of a democratic welfare state putting an end to feudalism and ushering in a life worthy of human beings for the sixty per cent of the Cuban population hitherto living in inconceivable misery.

Battista fled on January 1, 1959; he is now living unlamented in Madeira. Agrarian reform, redistribution of the national income by means of progressive taxes and a system of social, security (on the lines of Roosevelt's New Deal), are to lead step by step to the Revolution's second goal.

Has Castro also res:ored the freedom of the Press? On paper' he has. Nevertheless, just recently there have been several encroachments on the part of the Cuban authorities—for concrete instances see the report of the Inter-American Press Association of December 1959, New York (and also "Toils of the Press" i1 this issue.—Ed. I.P.I. Report).

"Prensa Latina"

In Cuba itself the Revolution has given birth to two new Press organs: *Revolution*, the mouthpiece of the rebels, a copiously illustrated daily newspaper directed by Carlose Franqui, Castro's brother-in-arms. The other organ is a privately promoted news and feature agency, "Latina," run by two of the most prominent Latin American journalists, Jorge Manzetti and Rodolfo Walsh. "Prensa Latina" is an institution for which South America has long been waiting, a Latin news agency. It has offices with all the most modern equipment in the twenty capitals south of the Texan border, branches in Washington, Rome and Geneva' and a communications system of its own; thus "Prensa Latina" has taken up the gauntlet against the North American agencies, whose predominance hitherto remained undisputed in Latin America.

(I,P.I. Report)

DO YOU KNOW?

About 30,000 newspapers are produced in the world of which 8,000 are dailies and 22,000 appear several times a week.

This is disclosed in a yearbook, "Statistics of Newspapers and other Periodicals" prepared by the statistical department UNESCO. According to a UNESCO information bulletin, the yearbook has been prepared on the basis of facts submitted by 146 countries. Most of the facts date from 1956. The published figures show that two-thirds of the newspapers are morning papers and one third evening. The total circulation of dailies amounts to 250 million copies, which works out to 92 copies per thousand inhabitants in the world. Other newspapers, not appearing daily, have a total circulation of 200 million, which works out to 72 copies per thousand inhabi tants.

Europe and America Lead

The statistics also reveal that roughly one third of all newspapers are published in North America, a second third in European countries including the Soviet Union and the last third covers the rest of the world. The USSR publishes as many newspapers as the rest of the European countries put together. As far as circulation of dailies is concerned, Europe and Soviet Union together produce roughly half the total world circulation, North America about 25 per cent.

The U. S. A. publishes 8,512 newspapers, the largest number for any one country. The Soviet Union comes second with 5,114 in 1956. According to Soviet statistics the number of newspapers published in 1959 was 7,686. Argentina, Great Britain, Brazil and Canada are among the countries producing over 1,000 newspapers.

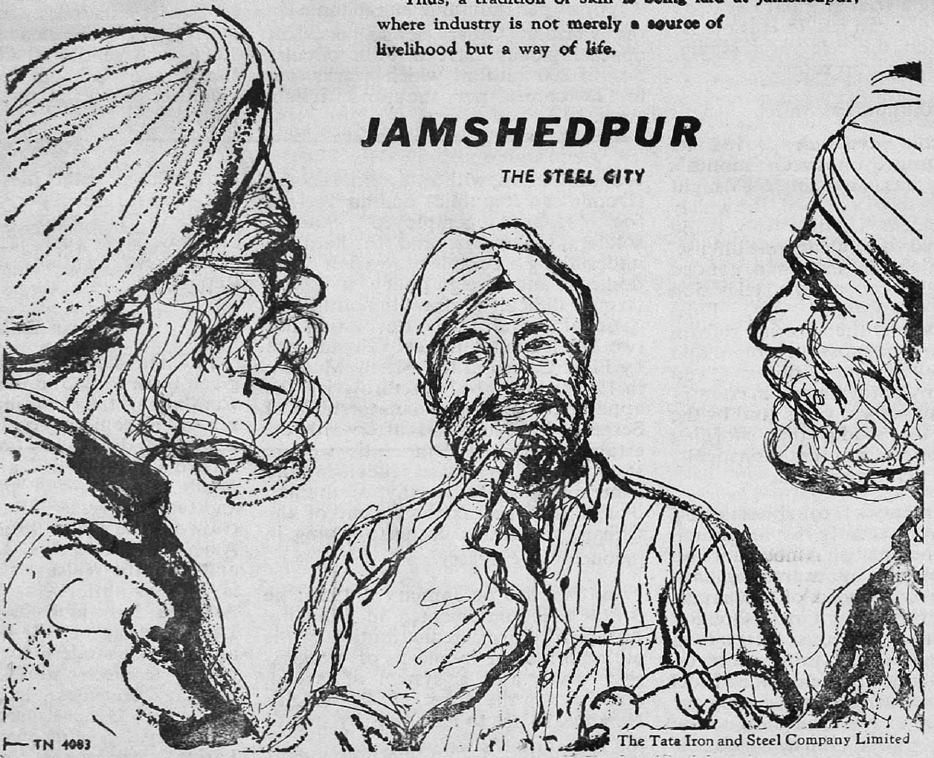
the beginning of a tradition

FIFTY YEARS AGO, Sardar Pratap Singh Bhumra, now 87, was assembling cranes and electrical equipment as India's first steel works was taking shape in the wilderness of Chhotanagpur.

His son, Jwala Singh, joined the steel works his father helped to build. Drawing upon his mature technical skill, he suggested an improvement to soaking pit cranes which won him a reward from Management and appreciation from the American manufacturers.

Hari Singh, Jwala Singh's son, imbibed the family tradition early in life. A young electrician in Tata Steel's Skelp Mill, he was recently sent to Japan to study advanced crane maintenance.

Thus, a tradition of skill is being laid at Jamshedpur, where industry is not merely a source of livelihood but a way of life.



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The Tata Iron and Steel Company Limited

(*Contd. from page 7*)

in the town passed away. Another gun equally big, had made some donation and very obligingly sent us a report and a block to go with it. It was not their fault that they looked somewhat alike. Battling with the never-ending flow of news from all available media and racing against the clock which is his deadliest enemy, the sub-editor on duty at night put the donor's block by the side of the report about the other's death.

You can imagine my plight next morning; my heart sank into my stomach when that worthy's telephone came. I had a foretaste of Dante's Inferno, A correction and an apology in the next edition was in order but was of little avail in bringing about peace. Equally unavailing was the humble spiritual submission that according to Hindu belief, an inadvertent announcement of death actually prolonged one's life. I felt like an unequal matador facing an infuriated bull. Then I remembered Mark Twain's exclamation when he was shown a newspaper account of his death. "Oh", he said, with a wave of his hand, "the report is slightly exaggerated." I tried this on the offended one and it worked. Since then we became faster friends.

To achieve such friendships is a hard and long way. While going that way many often look upon you as a dangerous animal just escaped from the zoo. That of course is an initial reaction, a superficial one. The realisation comes soon that the Editor is a friend of all humanity and of all good causes. My experience in this respect has been very happy. Men in possession of precious secrets pertaining to matters of public interest seldom hesitated to share them with me. They had no occasion to regret. And the process of confidence begetting confidence went on snowballing. That is so partly because the Editor is like an iceberg. The iceberg is more important for what is submerged in water than for what is seen on the surface. Even so, the Editor knows much, but he does not print all. That is why a prominent newspaper carries on its masthead the resounding slogan: "All the news that is fit to print". Even this process of printing only the news that is fit to print exposes the press to such perils and pitfalls as few other professions have to face, As an Editor I stand in the front line and in the firing squad and have to say things first and before politicians and public men are called upon to do so. I consider myself a careful Editor who does not believe in inviting trouble. Yet, during these 20-odd years of editorship I have run into nearly half a dozen defamation cases including the one instituted by an important public man. This one came when I had just begun my career as an Editor. I will be untrue to myself if I do not confess that it did make me a little nervous and gave me a few sleepless nights. The case against me, however, was lost in all the three courts including the High Court to which it went.

In another case a judge threatened to throw me into jail if I did not disclose the source of information. Loyalty to the great traditions built up by giants in the profession gave me the courage to decline to obey the dictates of the court and I won my point. It is tempting to recall those old, far off things and battles of long ago. But here I must resist the temptation. Suffice it to say that the experience was worthwhile and made a better man of me.

Narada First Walking Newspaper !

It is a 24-hour job discharging the great responsibilities of this profession whose earliest ancestor was Narada. Much maligned and much misunderstood, Narada gallantly carried on his work of purveying information, thus promoting what Lord Krishna wanted

Supreme Court dismisses detained newsman's petition

A Delhi newsman who sought to challenge the validity of his detention in prison since May of last year has now had his petition dismissed by the Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court.

He is Jagan Nath Sathu, New Delhi correspondent of the daily newspaper *Dawn* (Karachi), who has been detained since May 4 last year under India's Preventive Detention Act and is due to remain in prison until May 4 of this year. Mr. Sathu was charged with spreading false, one-sided and misleading information and with conducting propaganda against the Government of the State of Jammu and Kashmir in a manner calculated to bring into hatred and contempt the Government of India and in a way prejudicial to India's relations to Jammu and Kashmir and to foreign powers. He was also charged with having been in touch and closely associated with persons hostile to the cause of India in relation to Jammu and Kashmir and who are engaged in activities prejudicial to the security of India. The fact that Mr. Sathu had not been given an opportunity of defending himsels at an open trial had led to some comment in journalistic circles.

In the petition submitted to the Supreme Court of January 4 last it was urged that Pakistan was not a foreign state and therefore there could be no question of his act being prejudicial to the relations of India with foreign powers. And in so far as his dispatches had not disclosed any incitement to violence or subversion of the Government of the State or the Government of India there could be no question of any act of the petitioner being prejudicial to the security of the country,

Mr. Justice Imam who delivered the judgment on January 21 said that in the matter of sovereign status, each member of the Commonwealth was as independent as any other nation outside the Commonwealth. It followed therefore, Mr. Imam aded, that in their relations between each other and nations outside the Commonweath they must be regarded as foreign powers and their affairs as between them were foreign affairs.

The extracts from the dispatches sent by the petitioner to the foreign newspaper, the judgment went on to say, showed that they were not only prejudicial to the Government of India vis-a-vis Pakistan but they were prejudicial to the relations of India with foreign powers in general, the subject of the affairs of the State of Jammu and Kashmir not being a matter of interest solely to Pakistan but also of interest to other foreign powers.

The Judge said that the dispatches disclosed sufficient grounds for the action taken by the Government in detaining Mr, Sathu and the petition was therefore dismissed.—*I P.I. Report*

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Arjuna to promote—world welfare. The Editor who promotes popular welfare is in much the same position.

Narada is the world's first walking newspaper; an idea that Gandhji familiarised during the early years of World War II when the British Government imposed intolerable restrictions on the freedom of expression. Now, the freedom of expression, you will agree, is fundamental for, as the American President Jefferson used to say, it guards our other liberties. It was this statesman of New World who proclaimed that if he were given the choice of having newspapers without a government or a government without newspapers, he would prefer news papers without a government.

Responsibility to the people

That was Jefferson's way of emphasising the indispensability of newspapers in popular rule. During his two terms as President he had, as many of you may recall, to face the severe fire of press criticism. But after retirement he proclaimed: "Where the Press is free all is safe." What a fine tribute to the Fourth Estate and its freedom? To fight for this freedom and to preserve it and through it serve the people's right to know and be informed, editors must be men of integrity. Much will depend upon the personality, the force and the character of the Editor. As an Editor my responsibility, let it be noted, is not to the Government of the day but to its people. In discharging that responsibility the press always mirrors public opinion and often moulds it.

The Editors who do this mirroring and moulding are highly individualistic and self-opinionated people who are often accused of feeling self-important, that they have a message to deliver to this ailing world. The deliverers of this message may be many. For this is an open profession. No degrees, no diplomas and no certificates are needed for anyone to set up a press and take out a paper. On this point, as Mr. Jawaharlal Nehru once said, the Pressman is like the politician. The openness of the profession has its good points and bad, but on the whole I would defend it with all my might. Nobody can or should stand in the way of people excercising what the Americans call their God-given right to stand on their hind legs and shout what they think is for the good of the people.

That is why there is a certain amount of sanctity and significance attached to the Editorial 'We'—like the Royal 'We', The Royal 'We' is however a fast vanishing phenomenon, but the Editorial 'We' will continue and carry weight as long as people continue to cherish individual liberty and democratic values.

The people of India in their constitution have pledged themselves to work for "Justice, social, economic and political, liberty of thought, expression, belief, faith and worship". The gentlemen of the Press will work for nothing less, and like those that wrote the Declaration of Independence pledge "Our lives, our fortunes and our sacred honour" to strive, to seek, to find and not to yield.

[Courtesy—"Akashvani"

(Contd. from page 5)

(which means nine votes in the UN) plus the admission of a large number of new members from Asia and Africa has strengthened the group wanting limitations on press freedom and the Western countries find themselves in a minority today. The former feel confident—and they demonstrated it it during the session which has just ended—that they have the necessary majority in the Third Committee to make any changes they may want in the draft convention. But as against a simple majority which is enough in the Committee, they will require a two-thirds majority in the General Assembly to make their wishes prevail and the Western countries can still thwart this if they all stand together firmly against any restrictive Convention and not adopt a hesitant attitude as some of them, including the United States, seemed to do during the recent Third Committee meeting.

While taking the position that no Convention at the present time was likely to further the cause of freedom of information and opposing the changes proposed in the draft Convention, many of them, when it actually came to voting, abstained rather than vote against. And in the United Nations as it is now composed and on this question of freedom of information an abstention is tantamount to an affirmative vote.

Free Press must be Vigilant

It would, therefore, seem to be up to the free press wherever it exists to put pressure on its respective Government to stand firmly against any Convention which would tend to restrict freedom of information. Otherwise it is conceivable the cause might be lost through default. After all, it should not be forgotten that a United Nations meeting is an inter-Governmental conference, and Governments, however highminded and democratic, would like to keep some check on the press. Some delegates, in fact, made no secret of this during the Third Committee debate; they urged the Committee members to remember they were there as representatives of Governments and their job was to safe-guard the interests of Governments and States and not to fight for the rights of the journalistic profession.

—I. P. I. Report

Statement about ownership and other particulars about newspaper *NEWSMAN to be published in the first issue every year after the last day of Feb.*

FORM IV (See Rule 8)

1.	Place of publication	**Madras**
2.	Periodicity of its publication ...	**Monthly**
3.	Printers' Name	**Sri C. G. Kurup**
	Nationality	**Indian**
	Address	**Janatha Press, 66, Bells Road, Madras 5**
4.	Publisher's Name	**R. Narasimhan & C. Rajagopalan for Madras [Reporters' Guild**
	Nationality	**Indian**
	Address	**Govt. Estate, Madras 2**
5.	Editor's Name	**R. Narasimhan & C. Rajagopalan**
	Nationality	**Indian**
	Address	**Govt. Estate, Madras 2.**
6.	Names and addresses of individuals who own the newspaper and partners or shareholders holding more than one per cent of the total capital ...	**Madras Reporters' Guild Government Estate Madras 2**

We, R. NARASIHAN & C. RAJAGOPALAN, hereby declare that the particulars given above are true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Dated, 5th March 1960.

R. NARASIMHAN
C. RAJAGOPALAN
Signature of Publisher,

(Contd. from page 3)

Where the matter was confidential it would not however be necessary to state the details in the reason for the resolution excluding the press.

The Bill was seconded by Mr. F. V. Corfield (Conservative) who said that the purpose of the Bill was not to confer privileges on the press as such but to ensure that the press as the natural channel between electors and elected had the facilities to fulfil that function. He said that one of the main objections to the Bill by the Association of Parish Councils was the danger of inadequate reporting. He thought that it was not a good reason for excluding the press. "Sensationalism and bias, we have to face, are features of certain of the national press but not common to the provincial press", he said and added that the press should be admitted as a general rule and excluded as an exception.

Labour member G. W. Reynolds moved for rejection of the Bill. His amendment urged the House to decline to give a second reading to the Bill "which would disrupt satisfactory arrangement that already exists in many parts of the country". He feared that the Bill would lead to greater animosity between the public body and the press rather than ease the relationship. He was convinced that if the Bill became law a large number of local authorities would withdraw from committees their delegated powers. The presence of the press at committee meetings inhibit members in what they had to say, he felt.

Mr. Reynolds suggested to the Minister for Local Government to get in touch with local authority associations and representatives of newspaper interests and journalists to see if it was possible to draw up a code of practice, giving general guidance to local authorites and to the press and explaining how each side could help the other.

Mr. Reynolds was supported in his opposition by Mr. Arthur Skeffington (Labour), Mr. A. R. Wise (Conservative), Mr. Charles Pannel (Labour) and Mr. Michael Stewart (Labour). While Mr. Skeffington said the existing situation was ideal, Mr. Wise felt that a major legislation of this sort should not be introduced to deal with a few hard cases.

Mr. Pannel expressed his conviction that reticence was a decent quality, far more desirable than the garish desire for publicity among civilisations at present.

Mr. Stewart felt it was undesirable for a council to dodge the spirit of the 1908 Act but it should not be supposed that any council which operated the exclusion proviso was operating a gag or had turned into a pocket Hitler. The elected representatives of the public in the Council were most fully entitled to decide what things had to be done in public and what in private.

The mover got the support of Mr. Dudley Smith (Conservative), Mrs. Barbara Castle (Labour), Mr. Maurice Edelman (Labour), and Mr. Henry Brooke (Minister) for Local Government).

Mr. Smith believed the Bill was a considerable improvement on the 1908 Act which "many journalists consider outdated and outmoded". He added that journalists believed that good councils had nothing to fear from the proposals.

Mrs. Castle, who is a member of the National Union of Journalists, supported the Bill but said she could understand the basis of the objections to it. Some Labour councils had suffered at the hands of the press from oversensationalism, she said and agreed that in many directions there was lamentable deterioration in the quality of the press.

Mr. Edelman, also a member of the N. U. J., felt it was wrong to try, as

Chinese reporter jailed for "espionage"

A Chinese reporter for United Press International, Yim Yuen-lo, sent into China on a news assignment, has been sentenced by the Communist authorities in Canton to one year's imprisonment for "espionage." Yim, a member of UPI Hongkong bureau since April 1959, had been missing inside Communist China since last July when he was sent by his office to Canton to interview William Downey, whose brother, John, is one of five Americans imprisoned in Red China. The younger Downey had been given special US State Department permission to travel in Communist China to see his brother and attempt to get him released. Yim's trip was arranged by an official Communist Chinese travel bureau and with the full understanding that he was a working newsman.

A report that he had been sentenced for alleged spying was published in the February 6 edition of the Red Chinese newspaper *Ta Kung Pao*, of Peking, which quoted a dispatch of the official New China News Agency from Kwangtung.

Yim, aged 25, was born in Shanghai but had lived in the British Crown Colony of Hongkong since he was a small child.

All previous efforts by UPI to get information on the whereabouts and status of Yim had met with failure. The New China Report claimed that Yim had pleaded guilty to the charge of spying and said he had been sentenced on January 31. According to the report Yim had been arrested on July 28 which was nine days after he had entered Red China. The last direct word received from Yim in Hongkong was a cable on July 21 which said he would be unable to leave Red China immediately.

In Tokyo, UPI Vice-President and General Manager for Asia, Earnest Hoberecht called on Chinese Communists to release Yim immediately saying "UPI sent him there as a legitimate newsman for the specific purpose of interviewing an American who had gone there with the permission of the Chinese Communist Government. Yim went with the full agreement and cooperation of Chinese Communist officials. Apparently he was thrown in jail and held for months before being tried. Nobody knows what happened to him in the meantime. Chinese Communists even refused to tell the international Red Cross they were holding him."

COMMENT ON PENDING CASE IS CONTEMPT

Any comment regarding a pending case is itself contempt of court and not only when there is any aspersion cast on the magistrate or judge.

This view was expressed by Their Lordships the Chief Justice and Mr. Justice Jagadeesan of the the Madras High Court recently while disposing of the contempt of court applications taken out against a local vernacular daily, *Dina Thanthi*.

Their Lordships observed that the principle was based on the necessity to prevent any comment which was likely to affect the fair and unprejudiced disposal of a pending case. This principle would apply when there was an attack on the police who were the prosecutors as much as when the attack was on the accused.

The case arose out of the publication in the daily of three news items relating to a case under Madras Prohibition Act filed by the Sriperumbudur Police before the Sub-Magistrate of Poonamalle.

The judges remarked that in the news item there was a clear suggestion that a false case had been foisted against the villagers. The first item was published when the appeal was pending before the District Magistrate; second one after the disposal of the case by the District Magistrate but before time for filing for revision petitions had expired; and the third item after the filing of the revision petition in the High Court. Their Lordships said obviously the publication of the third news item would constitute contempt of court.

Their Lordships added: "If any one is dissatisfied with the working of the Prohibition Act it is always open to such a person to ventilate his grievances in the Assembly or Council or by other legitimate means so long, of course, as there is no comment made of a case pending disposal either before this court or any other court"

Mr. P. Ramarathnam, Editor, Printer and Publisher and Mr. S. B. Adityan, Editor in charge of the daily tendered apology and Their Lordships, accepting the apology, said there was no need to take any action against them.

Late Mr. J. A. Borron

On March 3, there occurred a sad event—the death of Mr. J. A. Borron, Regional Information Officer of the British Information Services, Madras.

58-year-old Borron had been a tea and rubber planter in Ceylon, South India and Malaya during the years 1924–37. During 1935–40, he served in the Queen's Westministers; and was commissioned in 1940 in the East Lancashire Regiment. He saw service in the Indian Army in 1941–45 as captain in the R.I.A.S.C. From March 1947 to the day of his death, for 13 years, he was the Regional Information Officer of the B.I.S. He was awarded the M.B.E. in 1955. He is survived by his wife, a son and a daughter.

He was outstanding in his chosen field of public relations, and had endeared himself to one and all among pressmen. Reporters in Madras have good cause to remember with gratefulness, his many services to the reporting fraternity. He knew almost every reporter in the City, and moved in friendly fashion with them all. He was a familiar figure at some of the editorial halls of the great Dailies in Madras, perched on a desk, and chatting affably with reporters, sub-editors, and news editors.

The Guild has particular reason to be grateful to him, for in his own individual capacity, as also through the B.I.S., he supplied us with copies of some of the national dailies of Britain, and other valuable publications and good reading material. When two years ago, we celebrated our anniversary as also the starting of the Newsman, in response to our invitation, he wrote, "You have made a good beginning, and I am sure if all your members loyally support the Guild, this one-year-old baby will grow into a sturdy man. Any help I can give you, I shall be only too pleased to do so." Needless to say, he was as good as his word, and he did not stint anything when necessary to help the reporters for whom he had always a soft corner in his heart.

Memories crowd our mind, of his alert watchfulness to be of constant help to the pressmen of Madras. Old-timers can remember his helpfulness to the Press Club of Southern India Journalists' Federation when it was situated in the old Sri Rama Buildings in Mount Road, and of how he used to donate the cups for the tabletennis tournament conducted therein. Last year's simple, yet delightful dinner party on the occasion of the Guild's anniversary, was given by Mr. Borron

The premises of the Guild were closed on March 3 as soon as we heard of his death, and two days later, at a meeting of the General body, a resolution of condolence touching his death was passed, all standing. The resolution was conveyed to Mrs. Borron and the B.I.S., and both these have written thanking us for the same.

Out of the unceasing, sincere labours of men like J. A. B., grow goodwill and affection between nations such as ours and the British. May his soul rest in peace!

(*Contd. from previous page*)

had been suggested, to substitute a public relations officer for the free reporting by the press.

The Local Government Minister said that what they were worried about was a minority of local authorities who, either through deliberate intransigence or a lack of imagination and understanding and may be inertia, failed to give the press the co-operation they deserved. Had there not been a private member's bill he was going to see if a code of good conduct could be drawn that would satisfy all. Now the bill was before him and he intended to vote for it. He was ready to help Mrs. Thatcher in committee to improve it "so as to rub away the rough corners and remove any causes for legitimate criticism there may be".

Mr. Brooke further stated that if the Government were bringing forward a bill it would never have sought to legislate for the press differently from the public. The Government view was that if the facilities were given to the press, comparable facilities should be given to the public.

The amendment moved by Mr. Reynolds was rejected by 152 votes to 39 and the Bill was given second reading without a division.

PATNA SESSION OF I. F. W. J.

While the All India Newspaper Editor's Conference is taking all steps to have Press Advisory Committees in the States, the Indian Federation of Working Journalists has expressed itself against this.

At its conference in Patna in March this year the IFWJ advised its units to agitate against the revival of the Press Advisory Committees. In its view, the revival of the system of press advising was "bound to affect the freedom to disseminate information to the public". It regretted that some State Governments had been deliberately "misled and hustled into reviving the system by organisations of vested interests."

Press Council preferred

The conference stressed the need for a statutory Press Council on the lines recommended by the Press Commission to regulate the standards and performance of the profession and to further the freedom of the press, and requested the Central Government to set up the Press Council immediately.

On the subject of privileges of legislatures, the conference regretted that no steps had been taken to define by legislation the privileges of Parliament and State Legislatures though ten years had passed since the enactment of the Constitution. This lapse had created difficulties in the proper functioning of Press vis-a-vis Parliament and State Legislatures. It urged the authorities to bring in necessary legislation so that the dignity of the Parliament was maintained and the profession of journalism was helped to raise its standards. The State Governments and Legislatures were requested to frame legislation for protecting publication of legislative proceedings.

The conference hoped that it would be possible for the world organisations of journalists to reach an understanding at least on specific spheres of co-operation to ensure dissemination of truthful and unbiassed news and views and discussion of professional problems and allied matters.

Be objective

The conference was inaugurated by the Bihar Chief Minister, Dr. Sri Krishna Sinha, who exhorted journalists to be objective in the selection, preparation and presentation of news. He wanted journalists to be fair in their comment "so as not to weaken an attitude of mind needed for national development".

The Chief Minister expressed his belief in the freedom of the Press and said that a press which was not free would be unable to fulfil the purpose for serving which it had come into existence. They should have freedom to criticise, he agreed. But he would like to utter a word of caution in this regard. He felt that those entitled to criticise might have their own opinion regarding the shape of things which might get reflected in their criticism, despite their efforts to the contrary. While criticising, nothing should be said in anger or spite or for easy gain over the political adversary which might excite emotions. Such a criticism was bound not only to retard the growth of attitude of mind conducive to a common national effort but was bound to undo even the little achievement made in that direction under the stress of the fight for independence. "Here is a mine-field which if tread upon will explode, with this difference, that it will not destroy the critic who steps unwarily across it but the high hopes of a nation for which that criticism is meant", he concluded.

Mr. Nirmal Kumar Chaudhury welcomed the delegates. He said that while objectivity in news should be the guiding principle it should be admitted that absolute objectivity was perhaps not possible. Exact reporting without any bias as far as it was humanly possible should be the motto of journalists. He also stated that they should think seriously whether they had been able to lay down a standard or a healthy convention by which they could safely say that they were free from projecting their personal bias and prejudices while reporting "news behind news".

The report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the organisation during the year, which was presented to the conference, drew pointed attention to the "reversal of the policy of Government of India in the matter of granting licenses to start new news agencies" and said that the new policy was bound to strengthen the "force of monopolistic control of the Press in this country". The report felt that the Prest Trust of India would be "killed" by the new news agency.

Regarding the future of the IFWJ, the report stated that much remained to be done in the matter of building up a healty profession. They should devise ways and means of raising the standard of the profession, enforcing the code of conduct, and undertake training of journalists.

Presidential address

In his presidential address Mr. M. V. Sane referred to lack of trained personnel in the newspaper profession and and said that the IFWJ should prepare suitable books on journalism, and laws relating to the press, contempt of court and parliamentary privileges. He also suggested organisation of refresher courses, study circles and, wherever possible, summer schools by the units of the federation. In all these efforts they should try to seek the co-operation of the universities.

On the Federation's relationship with journalistic organisations abroad, Mr. Sane recalled that it had decided not to affiliate itself to any international organisation so long as journalist bodies in all the countries in the world were not represented on it. However the Federation had been sending its representatives to both the International Organisation of Journaltsts and the Inernational Federation of Journalists as observers. He referred to the IFWJ President's visit to Vienna and his discussions with the president of the IFJ and the NUJ and said that these discussions had enabled each party to understand the other's point of view and there had been a suspension of cold war that had been going on between the two organisations.

Mr. Sane also felt the IFWJ should take a lead in bringing together unions primarily working for the welfare of non-journalist newspaper employees under an all India organisational set-up.

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could change in the near future. Thus the Japanese Press Yearbook for 1959 published by the Japan Newspaper Publishers and Editors Association records that "In a new move to expand their spheres of influence, national dailies are planning to set up more printing plants in provincial districts and feed them with facsimiles of monotype transmissions. This plan is expected to materialize first in Sapporo in the northernmost island of Hokkaido during the first half of 1959. *Asahi* is credited with a plan to feed provincial printing plants with facsimiles transmitted by microwave facilities while *Mainichi* is said to be planning to use, for the time being, long distance monotype transmissions. *Yomiuri* is reported planning to buy up local newspapers to counter its rivals' expansion plans.

New Ventures

"The new ventures in Hokkaido forebode similar moves in the Northern Honshu district and Southern Kyushu where the sales competition has not been too intense so far. A new vista is opening for the Japanese newspaper industry".

The *Asahi Shimbun*, on the other hand, takes the view there must be certain limitations, to the advance of the national newspapers because they must cater for the general mass of people and relegate local interests to second place, so that the basic question is establishing a balance between local and national interests. This fact, in turn, creates a dilemma for national newspapers such as *Ashahi Shimbun* on how to adjust quality and quantity.

What interests Readers

Recently the *Asahi* completed a survey of readership and reader interest which is instructive. A breakdown of the *Asahi* circulation of between 3½ and 4 million copies daily indicated that its readers are composed of 35.6 per cent white-collar workers; 19.3 per cent industrial workers; 21.9 per cent commerce and small-scale industry; 18.5 per cent farmers and fishermen, and 4.6 per cent others. Of these, 53.9 per cent had subscribed to *Asahi Shimbun* for more than seven years, and 69.4 per cent for more than four years.

Under the heading of "purpose of reading" the same public opinion survey indicated that 50.9 per cent placed news (including political and foreign news) first; 13.6 per cent culture; 10.3 per cent indicated no special preference; 16.8 per cent gave no answer; 4.8 per cent entertainment; 3.7 per cent sports; and 2.8 per cent home and women's news. Asked what section of the paper they turned to first, a majority of readers named local or city news, sports, and the radio and television section in that order, followed by foreign news which attracted 9.2 per cent of the local readership.

Monthlies and Weeklies

In addition to this highly-developed interest in newspapers and the news of the world, the Japanese have since the termination of the Pacific war—and especially since the regaining of their national independence in 1952–displayed a keen appetite for news magazines, both weekly and monthly, dealing with political and economic affairs. The weeky *Asahi* enjoys a circulation of about one million copies, while three leading intelligent monthly magazines have a similar combined circulation.

In all there are some thirty-five weekly news magazines with a combined circulation in the millions and there exist monthly news magazines devoted to literary, political and economic interests and events and enjoying combined circulations of around one million. The most spectacular success in this monthly field has been recorded by *Bungei Shunju* which since prewar days has increased its circulation from about 200,000 to 650,000 copies (at 2/- per copy) monthly.

In Japan, men over forty years of age rarely read magazines: the success of *Bungei Shunju* is largely due to the fact that while it is widely read by white-collar workers and college and high school students, it also appeals to the older generation. Its circulation, which is four times that of its nearest rival, still continues slowly to increase, but according to its editors the magazine is nearing the point at which they know they are approaching the limit of the sales without changing the intelligent character of the magazine and giving it a more popular appeal. Incidentally, one reason for the large circulation of *Bhungei Shunju*, according to its editor-in-chief, is that the bulk of its readors are conservatively-inclined, in line with prevailing Japanese opinion. Many readers of the monthly *Bungei Shunji* also read the weekly *Asahi*, which maintains a similarly high standard

Zest for News

A primary reason alike for the vigorous growth of the Japanese newspapers and the development of weekly and monthly news magazines since the Pacific war is the existence of a widespread curiosity among the Japanese people regarding both domestic and foreign affairs—a curiosity fostered and increased by the fact that comparatively few ever travel outside their own country. A second reason is a universal regard and respect for a free press following prewar and wartime controls. And a third is the mechanical excellence and competent coverage both of local and world affairs, which entitles the Japanese press to rank among the most efficient newspapers in the world. In no other country do so many really good and reliable newspapers maintain such large circulations or enjoy a wider measure of respect as the alert guardians of the new freedoms and the human rights so recently gained by that nation.

Crocodile Community Development!

Kampala, Uganda, Community officers in the Acholi district of Northern Uganda spent two months building a dam to make a reservoir in the Bira river.

But a few days after it was finished a family of crocodiles started some community development of their own.

First they drove 5ft.-wide tunnels into the earthworks, then they scooped out three huge caves as living-quarters and larders.

The reservoir filled up, the tunnels and caves collapsed, and 300ft. of dam went swirling away down river.

Now it has been rebuilt and game rangers are guarding it.

"We don't want any more of those dam-buster crocodiles," remarked an annoyed community-development man.

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